

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENNA 05247 181221Z

44

ACTION SR-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 H-01 ORM-01 NEA-07 /033 W

----- 081507

R 181046Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5957

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 5247

LIMDIS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, SREF, PFOR, AU

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL COMPLAINT

REF: STATE 139391

1. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO COMMENT DIRECTLY UPON WHAT IT CONSIDERS GARBLED AND OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE ACCOUNT CONGRESSMAN LONG HAS OBTAINED THIRD-HAND FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON ABOUT INABILITY OF AUSTRIANS TO ACCOMMODATE HIS REQUEST TO VISIT JEWISH EMIGRE TRANSIT FACILITY ON MAY 30.

2. FACTS OF CASE, AS UNDERSTOOD BY EMBASSY, FOLLOW:
AS INDICATED IN VIENNA 4523, UPON RECEIPT OF STATE 121470 ON MAY 24, EMBASSY COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY WITH OFFICE OF MR. FRIEDRICH PROKSCH, CHIF OF LOWER AUSTRIAN PROVINCIAL RED CROSS, IN EFFORT TO SECURE PERMISSION FOR CONGRESSMENT LONG AND KOCH TO VISIT SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRE TRANSIT FACILITY. AUSTRIAN RED CROSS ASSUMED SOLE JURISDICTION OVER ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY OF FACILITY WHEN IT WAS RELOCATED AT SIMMERING IN SEPTEMBER 1974, AND PROKSCH IS PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL IN CHARGE. UNFORTUNATELY, MR. PROKSCH HAD ALREADY LEFT VIENNA, INTENDING TO RETURN ON JUNE 2 TO ACCOMPANY CODEL EILBERG THROUGH FACILITY AS EMBASSY HAD ARRANGED EARLIER. BECAUSE NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENNA 05247 181221Z

VISIT TRANSIT FACILITY IN ABSENCE OF MR. PROKSCH (E.G.

AMBASSADOR BUCHANAN'S VISIT TO FACILITY WAS ITSELF DELAYED TEN DAYS TO THIS REASON IN SPITE OF HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN AND INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS), PROKSCH'S OFFICE WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE VISIT OF CONGRESSMEN. EMBASSY THEREUPON ATTEMPTED TO ENLIST AID OF JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL (JAI) VIENNA DIRECTOR. IN ABSENCE OF DIRECTOR, WHO WAS IN ISRAEL, JAI STAFF DECLINED TO BECOME INVOLVED. (JAI PROVIDES MOST OF PERSONNEL WHO PROCESS EMIGRES AT FACILITY.)

3. ABOVE INFORMATION, AND FACT THAT EMBASSY COULD ARRANGE MEETING WITH JAI OFFICIALS AND DRIVE-BY ON MAY 30TH, WAS CONVEYED TO CONGRESSMEN IN VIENNA 4532. ALSO, MBFR CONTROL OFFICER FOR CODEL INFORMED CONGRESSMEN THAT US CONSUL GENERAL AND JAI DIRECTOR AND STAFF WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME DURING THEIR VISIT TO DISCUSS WITH THEM FACILITY AND ITS OPERATION. IN ADDITION, CONTROL OFFICER CONVEYED TO THEM ORALLY MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN YATES, WHO HAD VISITED WITH JAI OFFICIALS ON MAY 26, THAT CONGRESSMAN YATES HAD OBTAINED FROM JAI INFORMATION IN WHICH HE AND CONGRESSMAN KOCH WERE INTERESED AND TO EFFECT THAT SECURITY PROBLEM WAS LEGITIMATE CONCERN OF AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES. (EMBASSY HAD, FOR SAME REASON AS IN CASE OF CONGRESSMEN KOCH AND LONG, BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE PERMISSION FOR CONGRESSMAN YATES TO VISIT FACILITY BUT WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR UNITED HEBREW IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE SERVICE OFFICIAL TO PROVIDE HIM INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET EMIGRES MIGRATING TO U.S., IN WHICH CONGRESSMAN HAD EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST. SUCH EMIGRES ARE NOT, IN ANY CASE, PROCESSED OR HOUSED AT TRANSIT FACILITY BEFORE ENTRAINING TO ROME FOR FURTHER PROCESSING.) CONGRESSMAN YATES DEPARTED VIENNA WITH HIS CODEL ON MAY 28.

4. CODEL EILBERG MET WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DAGAN AT LATTER'S REQUEST AND AMBASSADOR DAGAN ALSO ATTENDED RECEPTION IN HONOR OF CODEL GIVEN BY U.S. CONSUL GENERAL DURING CODEL EILBERG VISIT JUNE 1-3. AT LATTER EVENT, AMBASSADOR DAGAN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENNA 05247 181221Z

CONGRESSMEN KOCH AND LONG HAS BEEN UNABLE TO VISIT TRANSIT FACILITY, AS WELL AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT ALL MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO FACILITY AT ANY TIME. HE ALSO INTIMATED THAT ISRAELI EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE IN SECURING PERMISSION TO VISIT FACILITY HAS IT BEEN ASKED. U.S. CONSUL GENERAL DID NOT DISPUTE LAST CLAIM OF ISRAELI AMBASSADOR (ALTHOUGH EMBASSY OFFICERS' CONTACTS WITH

BOTH AUSTRIAN AND JAI OFFICIALS INDICATES CLAIM WAS, AT BEST, OVERSTATEMENT OF OFFICIAL ISRAELI INFLUENCE ON OPERATION AND CONTROL TRANSIT FACILITY UNDER FACILITY'S PRESENT ADMINISTRATION), BUT HE DID EXPLAIN BRIEFLY TO AMBASSADOR DAGAN SPECIAL CONCERN OF AUSTRIANS OVER ACCESS TO FACILITY, AS HAD BEEN RELATED TO DEPARTMENT IN VIENNA 4432. HE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR DAGAN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS THAT AROSE WITH RESPECT TO REQUESTS OF CONGRESSMEN LONG, KOCH AND YATES TO VISIT FACILITY, AND INABILITY OF CONGRESSMEN LONG AND KOCH TO JOIN CODEL EILBERG. WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT AMBASSADOR DAGAN MAY HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT CONFUSED BY DISCUSSION OF COMPLEX SCHEDULING REQUIERMENTS INVOLVEING CONGRESSMEN VISITING VIENNA IN THREE SEPARATE CODELS, IT IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY HE IMPUTED TO CONSUL GENERAL LAST QUOTED REMARKS IN PARA 3 (3) REFTEL, WHICH WERE NEVER UTTERED.

5. WHILE EMBASSY REGRETS THAT IT WAS NOT ABLE TO SECURE FROM AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES PERMISSION FOR CONGRESSMEN KOCH AND LONG TO VISIT SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRE TRANSIT FACILITY, IT DOES NOT BELIEVE EMBASSY OR U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PLACED IN POSITION OF DISPUTING WITH AUSTRIANS MEASURES WHICH GOA, INCLUDING INTERIOR MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR HIMSELF, DEEM NECESSARY FOR SECURITY AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF FACILITY.BUCHANAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA05247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750212-0518
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750636/aaaabheo.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 139391
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL COMPLAINT
TAGS: OREP, SREF, PFOR, AU, (KELLOGG, FRANK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006